THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Sir, in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, 226 applications were pending for allotment of STD/ISD/PCOs during the last two years but no application was pending for allotment of STD/ISD/Telephones during the said period.

(b) Steps taken to clear the pending applications include increase of the exchange capacity, provision of more number of channels, expansion of external plant etc.

New Technology for VPTs in Arunachal Pradesh

2595. SHRI NABAM REBIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme for the new technology options for Village Public Telephones in the country, particularly in Arunchal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have formulated a comprehensive plan to induct new technologies in rural telephony including Village Public Telephone. These are Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) CDOT Point to Multi-Point System (CDOT PMP) and satellite-based telephones for remote and inaccessible areas in the country over and above the conventional technology of under ground cables.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

E-Post Service

2596. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Posts has launched a new service, "E-Post Service";

(b) if so, the details thereof and the various facilities the service is intended to provide;